GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2589
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2008
EARTHQUAKE PRONE AREAS
Mahto Shri Tek Lal

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earthquake prone areas have been classified into many categories in the country;

(b) if so, the norms adopted for the classification;

(c) the earthquake resistant measures taken by the Government during each of the last three years, category-wise; and

(d) the details of the allocation made and expenditure incurred by the Government in this regard during the said period?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) These areas have been classified based on the past earthquake history particularly in terms of occurrences, frequencies and intensities over different regions of the country.The Bureau of Indian Standards has divided the country broadly into four seismic zones i.e., Zone-II, Zone-III, Zone-IV and Zone-V on the basis of scientific data, in addition to historical data. Zone V is considered to be the most seismically active region while Zone-II is the least.

(c) Detailed mapping of the specific areas with information on different parameters related to geology, geomorphology, land use, land cover, ground response spectra, basement configurations and landslide hazard, peak ground acceleration etc need to be generated for seismic micro-zonation, so as to evolve earthquake resistant development plans within the broad zones of seismic hazard. Earthquake Risk Evaluation Center (EREC) is created in the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for generating such scientific inputs for mitigating seismic hazards. Several R & D programmes in seismology were also launched for generating specific inputs for generating urban scale seismic hazard with in the broad zones of seismic hazard.

Further, several capacity building initiatives are taken by various ministries of Government of India for moving towards seismic safety regime. Some of them are:

i) Launch of Urban Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Project (UEVRP) in 38 cities with the population more than 5 lakhs.

ii) Operating two Programmes for Engineers & Architects called "National Programme for Engineers in Earthquake Risk Management" and "National Programme for Capacity Building for Architects in Earthquake Management" by associating with IITs, NIT and Indian Institute of Architects.

iii) Launch of National Programme on Earthquake Engineering Education (NPEEE) for strengthening the resource institutions in the field of improved earthquake engineering research facilities and laboratory equipments.

All these initiatives are aimed at reducing the vulnerability to earthquakes through preparation of response plans at various levels by training of architects and engineers in evolving overall earthquake resistant safe construction practices in the country.

(d) During past 3 years, a sum of Rs. 2.3crores has been utilized by Ministry of Earth Sciences for generating appropriate scientific inputs for seismic hazard assessment.Also, for the promotion of R & D in the areas of earthquake science and for generating specific inputs for urban scale seismic hazard assessment, funds to the tune of Rs. 4.0crores have been utilized.